

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAHORE 00354 130501Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 MCT-01
DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01
SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 /077 W
-----130508Z 048715 /15

O 121331Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1216

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 0354

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN PUNJAB

REF: LAHORE 0344

1. SUMMARY: AGAIN ON APRIL 11 VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS
TOOK PLACE IN KEY PUNJAB CITIES INCLUDING LAHORE WHERE
ONE PERSON WAS KILLED BY POLICE FIRING. PAKISTAN NATIONAL
ALLIANCE (PNA) HAS CALLED ON PEOPLE TO LAUNCH A NON-
COOPERATION MOVEMENT AND REFUSE TO PAY TAXES AND OTHER
PUBLIC CHARGES. PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER QURESHI PLEDGED IN
SPEECH BEFORE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 11 THAT GOVERNMENT
WAS DETERMINED TO RESTOR NORMALCY AND NO ONE WOULD BE
ALLOWED TO CREATE DISTURBANCES. END SUMMARY.

2. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT ONE
PERSON WAS KILLED AND NINE INJURED IN CLASHES BETWEEN
POLICE AND PRO-OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATORS IN LAHORE APRIL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAHORE 00354 130501Z

11. POLICE HAD TO USE TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES TO HALT
DEMONSTRATORS WHO ATTEMPTED TO SET FIRE TO TWO BANKS AND
ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED BUILDING. FATALITY OCCURRED WHEN
POLICE OPENED FIRE TO CONTROL CROWD AND HIT AN ONLOOKER,
THE 25 YEAR OLD SON OF A PNA WORKER. ONE CONSTABLE WAS
KNIFED BY DEMONSTRATORS AND SEVERAL OTHERS INJURED. LAWYERS
TOOK OUT A PEACEFUL PROCESSION AROUND MIDDAY AND MARCHED

TO PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN PROROGUED. A THIRD PROCESSION CAME OUT FROM A MOSQUE AND ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT ON THE MALL. MOST OF THE MAIN DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AREAS WERE CLOSED FOR THE DAY IN SUPPORT OF THE PNA.

3. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE THERE WAS FURTHER VIOLENCE. ACCORDING TO PRO-OPPOSITION URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT (APRIL 12), A STUDENT PROCESSION CLASHED WITH POLICE IN LYALLPUR AND 18 WERE WOUNDED WHEN POLICE OPENED FIRE. TWENTY-ONE OTHERS WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED. DEMONSTRATORS SET TWO BUSES ON FIRE AND TRIED TO BURN DOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE AND OTHER PROPERTIES THERE. COMPLETE HARTAL WAS OBSERVED, WITH ALL BUSINESSES AND MARKETS CLOSED. A SECOND PROCESSION TAKEN OUT BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE LATHI CHARGES AND TEAR GASSING. A NUMBER OF POLICEMEN WERE REPORTED INJURED. IN MULTAN, A PNA STRONGHOLD, OPPOSITION WORKERS EXCHANGED SHOTS WITH PPP SUPPORTERS AND TWO PERSONS WERE INJURED. POLICE FORCIBLY DISPERSED THE TWO GROUPS AND ARRESTED SIX PERSONS. PNA DEMONSTRATORS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO BURN DOWN A BANK, BUT WERE ABLE TO SET TWO BUSES ALIGHT. CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY BETWEEN POLICE AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. CROWD HURLED STONES AND BRICKBATS AND POLICE RESPONDED WITH USUAL TEAR GASSING AND LATHI CHARGES. JOURNALISTS TOOK OUT A PROCESSION, APPARENTLY A PEACEFUL ONE. COMPLETE WAS REPORTEDLY OBSERVED AND SITUATION IN CITY REMAINS TENSE. ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN VARIOUS OTHER PUNJAB CITIES AND TOWNS, INCLUDING BAHAWALPUR, LEIAH, MUZAFFARGARH AND SIALKOT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAHORE 00354 130501Z

4. GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE PNA PASSED A RESOLUTION LAHORE APRIL 11 CALLING ON PEOPLE TO LAUNCH A CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. ACTING PNA CHIEF NAWABZADA NUSRULLAH KHAN URGED PEOPLE IN THIS CONNECTION TO WITHHOLD TAXES AND REFUSE PAYMENT OF VARIOUS PUBLIC CHARGES SUCH AS CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES, BUS AND TRAIN FARES, RADIO AND TV LICENSE FEES, IRRIGATION CESSSES, ETC. KHAN CALLED ON PAKISTANIS LIVING ABROAD TO HOLD UP REMITTANCE (COUNTRY'S TOP FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNER) AND REQUESTED ALL PAKISTANIS TO WITHDRAW MONEY FROM NATIONALIZED BANKS. PERTINENT GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES WERE ASKED TO COOPERATE.

5. SADIQ HUSSAIN QURESHI, RE-ELECTED CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB APRIL 11, WARNED IN SPEECH BEFORE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SAME DAY THAT HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE PUNJAB TO BECOME A HOTBED OF DISORDER. GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IS DETERMINED TO RESTORE NORMALCY. (QURESHI DID NOT SAY HOW THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.) CHIEF MINISTER BEGAN BY APOLOGIZING TO THE

PEOPLE FOR ANY PAST MISTAKES, CLAIMING HE WASN'T ASHAMED
OF HIS RECORD. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AFTER
THE SPEECH, QURESHI SAID IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY
TO BE HARSH WITH DEMONSTRATORS, BUT POLICE HAD TO DEFEND
THEMSELVES WHEN NECESSARY. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LOOTING
AND ARSON, ASKING IF THIS WOULD BRING STABILITY TO THE
COUNTRY.
GAMON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAHORE00354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770127-0598
Format: TEL
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770467/aaaacfpu.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b48bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAHORE 344
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2834300
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN PUNJAB
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b48bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009